

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA
April 6, 2017

A special meeting of the Prince George School Board was called to order on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at the School Board Office at 4:00 P.M.

Members present:

Mr. Reeve E. Ashcraft, Board Member
Mr. Robert E. Cox, Jr., Board Member
Mr. Kevin S. Foster, Chairman
Mr. Roger E. Franklin, Jr., Board Member [arrived at approximately 4:18 p.m.]
Mr. Lewis E. Stevenson, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Renée P. Williams, Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Patrick Bingham, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Rebecca Kirk, Clerk of the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Foster, Chairman, called the Special Meeting to order at 4:04 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following School Board Members present:

Present: Ashcraft, Cox, Foster, Stevenson
Absent: Franklin

[For the record, Mr. Franklin arrived at approximately 4:18 p.m.]

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Ashcraft made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Ashcraft, Foster, Stevenson
Absent: Cox, Franklin

[For the record, Mr. Cox stepped away from the meeting room briefly.]

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Foster led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. PRESENTATION BY PIERCE GROUP BENEFITS – Chris Pierce

Mr. Foster welcomed employees and community people in attendance, including the guests from Pierce Group and Anthem. Mr. Foster asked that each guest member introduce themselves.

From Pierce Group:

Donna Nixon

Sherry Cleveland

Chris Pierce, Vice President

Donald Pierce, President

Glen Pierce, Senior Vice President

From Anthem:

Sherry Rice

Bryan Van Huss

Mr. Foster remarked that he had been on the interview panel when the division was seeking a new healthcare consultant and what drew the panel to Pierce Group was what they could offer to the division and the complimentary results they had in other Virginia school divisions. The division's track record with other healthcare consultants had not been very pleasant but he was excited about the partnering the division had with the Pierce Group. The School Board had lots of questions regarding the rate increase, claim benefits, wellness program, health spending accounts, challenges the division faces, contract services, 2017 open enrollment, etc.

Don Pierce thanked the Board for the opportunity to be present tonight to answer questions. They did not prepare a presentation, but were here to answer questions the Board had from previous meetings. He gave a brief introduction and statistics about the Pierce Group and indicated that they now work with 8 clients in Virginia and are continuing to grow in the state.

Mr. Foster questioned the contract that we currently have in place with Pierce Group. Donna Nixon stated the contract was presented in June 2016 and it was signed in September, 2016. It is one plan with two different benefit designs and rates. Both entities (school division/county) have different needs/ideas with different operating rules. Forty-five percent of the claims are being produced by 25% membership (county). One group (school division) subsidizes the program and the county benefits, causing disparities between both parties. The number of school employees is triple the size of county employees. The school division had 20 large claims (over \$50,000), while the county had 9 large claims. The Wellness Program benefits that Pierce set aside for both entities has also been mostly absorbed by the county. Pierce indicated it has reserved the last \$17,374 to be spent by the school division by June 30, 2017. Their staff will work with the school division to engage staff to help with wellness participation. Pierce Group indicated that it may be time for the two entities to separate. The School Board has made changes to save money to add to the fund balance. During 2015-16

the fund balance was at zero dollars and in one year, the fund balance has grown to one million dollars, accredited to the school board being good stewards of trying ways to save money (i.e. stopped paying for the employee's healthcare coverage, went to a high deductible health plan, offered health savings account program to employees, etc.).

There was discussion on how healthcare increase went from 16% to 5.75%. The original renewal rates were posted off an Anthem rate, not the current rate in use by the schools.

The current service contract ends June 30, 2017. However, the school division did not meet the April 1, 2017 deadline to continue services. The school division indicated it wants to continue to partner with Pierce Group.

Mr. Cox made a motion to extend the current service contract with Pierce Group for an additional one year contract. Mr. Franklin seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

As a result of the approved motion, Dan Pierce indicated open enrollment starts April 24, 2017. Pierce staff will go to each school, give a presentation, provide tools to employees, meet with employees, provide assistance with enrollment paperwork, educate on online applications to purchase drugs, research services, etc.

Mr. Foster questioned when the school division should start strategies for the 2018-19 school year. In response, Mr. Pierce said to start as soon as the 2017-18 enrollment period ends. Mr. Foster also if the Pierce Group could employ and contract with Prince George County Public Schools a consultant that could be designated to Prince George County School Division as a benefit consultant/wellness coordinator, working with the school division and its employees every day. Mr. Pierce said the Pierce Group would consider this request and provide the School Board with their decision.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we set our signatures this 17th day of April, 2017.

Approved:

/s/ Kevin S. Foster – Chairman

Attest:

/s/ Rebecca B. Kirk – Clerk